

Message Text

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S E C R E T AMMAN 2141

EXDIS

DEPARTMENT PASS SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, JO, US

SUBJECT: TALK WITH THE PRIME MINISTER: MILITARY EQUIPMENT NEEDS

1. IN KNOWLEDGE THAT THE AMBASSADOR WOULD BE RETURNING TO WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THAT THERE WERE SEVERAL AREAS IN WHICH HE HOPED WE COULD GET POSITIVE DECISIONS FROM THE USG.
(A) JORDAN HAD ASKED FOR AIM-9J MISSILES FOR ITS AIRCRAFT. HE HOPED THAT THERE COULD BE A POSITIVE ANSWER WHICH WOULD PROVIDE FOR DELIVERY IN LESS THAN TWO YEARS. (B) F-5E'S--JORDAN WILL RECEIVE ITS FIRST EIGHT AIRCRAFT BY END OF APRIL 1975, AND WAS INFORMED THERE WOULD BE AN EXCESSIVE DELAY ON THE DELIVERY OF THE SECOND BATCH.
(COMMENT: WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY EXCESSIVE DELAY.
AIRCRAFT ARE SCHEDULED FOR DELIVERY IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRODUCTION SCHEDULE ESTABLISHED ONE YEAR AGO AND NEED TO HAVE FULL LOADS FOR C-5 DELIVERY.) (C) 180 TOW LAUNCHERS WERE INCLUDED IN THIS YEAR'S GRANT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. JORDAN HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THEY COULD NOT BE DELIVERED BEFORE TWO YEARS. HE HOPED WE COULD MAKE A SPECIAL EFFORT TO REDUCE THAT TIME. DELIVERY BY AIRCRAFT WAS HIGHLY DESIRABLE. IF NECESSARY, HE ASKED FOR SPECIAL CONSIDERATION TO PROVIDE THESE ITEMS FROM OUR OWN INVENTORIES. ISRAEL SEEMED TO GET THIS SORT OF CONSIDERATION ANY TIME IT WISHED AND WHILE HE RECOGNIZED THE PROBLEMS

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WHICH THIS MIGHT CAUSE US, US SHOULD KNOW IT WAS OF VERY

HIGH PRIORITY FOR THE JORDANIANS.

2. WE DISCUSSED THE QUESTION OF AIR DEFENSE. HE NOTED THAT JORDAN VERY MUCH WISHED TO OBTAIN U.S. EQUIPMENT, BUT IT COULD NOT CONTINUE ON FOREVER WAITING FOR THE U.S. TO MAKE UP ITS MIND. THE CURRENT STRAINED MILITARY SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST PARTICULARLY AFFECTED JORDAN AND WE COULD NOT LEAVE IT OPEN TO AIR ATTACK WITH NO DEFENSES AT ALL. (FOR DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, DURING A SIDE DISCUSSION OF AIR DEFENSE AT HIS INITIATIVE, VISITING SENATOR MCGOVERN INDICATED HE UNDERSTOOD VERY WELL THE NEED FOR THIS TYPE OF EQUIPMENT AND INDICATED HIS SUPPORT FOR JORDAN'S RECEIVING THE SAME. THERE WAS NO DISCUSSION OF THE DETAILS OF WHAT WAS REQUIRED BUT MERELY A FACTUAL REPORT ON THE LACK OF AIR DEFENSE AS A RESULT OF SOMETHING KING TOLD MCGOVERN AND THAT FACT THAT THE ISSUE IS UNDER STUDY IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH.)

3. FINALLY, THE PRIME MINISTER SAID THEY HAD BEEN WAITING SIX TO NINE MONTHS FOR ANSWERS ON HELICOPTERS, BOTH COBRA AND CH-53 HEAVY LIFT AIRCRAFT. HE HOPED THAT WE COULD GET SOMETHING FOR JORDAN ON THIS SOON. (COMMENT: OUR RECORDS INDICATE P&A DATA FOR COBRA WITH TOW WAS REQUESTED IN NOV 1974; WE HAVE NO RECORD OF ANY REQUEST FOR P&A DATA ON CH-53.)
SUDDARTH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED SECDEF.

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